8th October 1928]

A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government are not aware whether or no the facts are as suggested.

(*e*) & (*f*) No record has been traced of any order of the Government on the subject; nor of any representation made to Government. The transfer of poramboke land to ayan for assignment on darkhast is ordinarily within the discretion of the Collector.

Alleged disabilities of the Catholics in Mangalore in acquiring darkhast lands.

*353 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to questions Nos. 1740 and 1741 answered on 14th March 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have received any further representation from anybody in South Kanara or elsewhere as to the disabilities of the Catholic diocese of Mangalore or the Bishop of Mangalore or the Catholic churches in the diocese in acquiring Government lands by way of darkhast or kumki;

(*b*) whether lands are held in *inam* by the following churches in South Kanara:—

(1) Cathedral-Rozario, Mangalore, (2) Milagres, Mangalore, (3) Holy Trinity at Mermazal or Umzur, (4) Infant-Jesus (Mondunkul), (5) Saviour (Agrar, Mangalore taluk), (6) Mater Dei or Mother of God (Mogarnad), (7) Lady of Mercy (Ullal), (8) Remedies (Kirm) in Mangalore taluk, (9) Rosario (Coondapoor taluk), (10) Milagres (Killianpur, Udipi taluk) and (11) Holy Cross (Hospet, Karkal taluk), and if so, under what circumstances and orders; and

(*c*) whether any of these churches have been refused applications for the grant of lands by way of darkhast or kumki on the ground that they are alien or foreign bodies?

A.—(*a*) A representation from the hon. Member was received in May last. The point was also mentioned by the Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Mangalore in two appeals relating to assignment of land in Beltangadi village, South Kanara district.

(*b*) Under the Bednore or Ikkri Princes, only the Church at Coondapoor had been enjoying the assessment on the lands in its possession. The other churches had no inams. On the rebuilding of the churches which had been destroyed prior to the British regime the Government on the recommendation of Mr. Harris sanctioned the remission of the assessment on the lands newly purchased by the Christian inhabitants for the churches.

(*c*) The Government have no reason to think that applications have been rejected on the ground alleged. The rules only lay down that the previous sanction of the Government is required to the assignment of land to persons who are not British subjects nor subjects of Indian States.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"With reference to clause (*c*), it is stated: 'The Government have no reason to think that applications have been rejected on the ground alleged.' May I enquire, Sir, whether the applications

have been rejected on the ground that these churches are not British subjects in the sense that they are legal, moral, or juristic persons ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The hon. Member will see that in the second sentence in the same clause (c) it is stated : 'The rules lay down that the previous sanction of the Government is required to the assignment of land to persons who are not British subjects nor subjects of Indian States.' No case has come to the notice of Government where such previous sanction has been refused."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I ask, Sir, whether the Government and the Collector have been treating these churches as foreign bodies and as such not entitled to any assignment of land ? "

The hon. Sir. NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I think it was answered on a previous occasion that the Government were advised that the property of the Catholic church vested in His Holiness the Pope."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am not speaking of all the Catholic churches; I am speaking of the particular churches mentioned here which are in British India and which were formerly treated as entitled to free land assignments. I want to know whether these churches are treated as foreign bodies ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I assumed, Sir, that these churches were part of the Catholic church. I must make enquiries whether if the hon. Members suggest that they are separate bodies."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am only speaking of the churches built in South Kanara, i.e., in British India, by British-Indian subjects; I am not speaking of Catholic churches all over the world. I want to know whether these churches in South Kanara are treated as foreign bodies."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I can only say that the Government are advised that the property of all Roman Catholic churches is vested in His Holiness the Pope."

Land Revenue

Cultivation of tank-bed submersion porambokes in Velliyur village.

*354 Q.—Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU : Will the hon the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether survey Nos. 230, 231 and 232 of Velliyur village, No. 109 of Tiruvallur taluk, Chingleput district, were classed as "Tank-bed submersion porambokes" in the settlements of 1871 and 1911 and have continued to be the same up to date ;

(b) whether it is a fact that these survey numbers are allowed for cultivation by the Revenue Department in spite of the opposition of the Public Works Department ;

(c) if so, whether it is not contrary to the existing rules for the preservation of tank-bed submersion fields ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the villagers of the said village have issued a notice to the Government of a contemplated suit for prohibiting the said cultivation ; and

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to prohibit the cultivation of about 20 acres of the abovesaid survey numbers which are tank-bed submersion porambokes ?